

1910

It goes without saying that mankind could not succeed in creating a bad human existence out of a being that is good by its very nature. They could only do one thing, and they have achieved it: they have temporarily poisoned the life of the present generation, but in doing so they have involuntarily planted the germ that drives it forward more rapidly. If they have created and are still creating tremendous pernicious ills with their anti-religious corruption of men, they involuntarily cause all men to unite with their stratagems, which are harmful to them and their race. They corrupt mankind, indeed, all without exception: the Indians, the Chinese, the Negroes, all of them.

Medieval theology or the Roman corruption of morals poisoned only their own people, that is, a small part of humanity; today electricity, railways and telegraphs are corrupting the whole world. All appropriate these things, cannot but appropriate them, and all suffer in the same way, are compelled in the same degree to change their way of life. All are forced to betray what is most important

for their lives: the comprehension of life itself, and of religion.

Machines to manufacture what? Telegraphs, to transport what? Schools, universities, academies for teaching what? Assemblies to debate what? Books, newspapers, to disseminate what news? Railways to travel to whom and whereto? Millions of people herded together and subjected to a supreme power to accomplish what? Hospitals, doctors, pharmacies, to prolong life – for what?

Millions suffer in body and mind, just to gain power and and to be able to spread misery unhindered. For this purpose, the lie of religion, the lie of science, *anesthetization*, the inducement to drink and education, and where these exist only in small degrees, gross acts of violence, prisons, fortress punishments [are perpetrated].

How easily individuals as well as whole peoples acquire what is called civilization, "real civilization"! To graduate from the university, to keep one's nails clean, to need the services of the tailor and barber, to travel abroad – and the most highly civilized man is completed. And concerning peoples: as many railroads, academies, factories, dreadnoughts, fortresses, newspapers, books, parties,

parliaments as possible – and the most highly civilized people is completed. Therefore, enough individuals as well as peoples are to be won over for civilization, but not for enlightenment; the first is easy, requires no effort and finds applause; the second, however, requires exertion of one's forces and therefore finds with the great majority not only no applause, but always only contempt and hatred, for it exposes the lie of civilization.